



State of Illinois  
OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR PAT QUINN

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**For Immediate Release  
Friday, March 25, 2005**

**Contact: Brenda Alvarez  
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**Letter-to-the-Editor  
by Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn  
(294 words)**

Dear Editor,

This week (March 31) would have marked the 78th birthday of one of our greatest civil rights leaders -- Cesar Chavez -- who spent a lifetime improving the conditions of farm workers and struggling for social justice for immigrants, the impoverished, and workers everywhere. This genuine American hero battled hunger and pollution, and is a role model for anyone interested in public service.

Although he died in 1993, Cesar's spirit still lives. During the coming week, students across Illinois will participate in the 2nd Annual Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning program, which teaches students the importance of service to others and the difference they can make within their community.

The mission of the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning is to instill an ethic of service and civic responsibility in our young people.

Working with the Cesar E. Chavez Foundation in California, the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Chicago Public Schools, my office has introduced the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning program to more than 50 schools and almost 3,000 participating students (see [www.ChavezServeandLearn.il.gov](http://www.ChavezServeandLearn.il.gov)).

Students and teachers have organized many curriculum-based activities to celebrate Cesar's life including poems, drawings, drama performances and biographical collages. For example, Curie High School students will unveil a two-panel mural depicting Cesar Chavez and the migrant farm worker movement while students from Elgin High School will present the legacy of Cesar Chavez and his ability to move a nation.

Overcoming challenges and obstacles through non-violence, Cesar Chavez is internationally known for helping thousands of migrant farm workers across our nation. Celebrating his birthday through a day of service and learning will foster community service in our students and honor the legacy of a great American: 'Si se puede' or 'Yes, we can'.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Quinn".

Pat Quinn  
Lieutenant Governor